

RCP Economy Chapter

Draft Goals, Outcomes and Action Plan

Goals

- Position the SCAG region and its economy to seize opportunities and address challenges that will enhance the region's mobility, livability, prosperity, and sustainability.
- Ensure a healthy, flourishing economy that provides employment opportunities and prosperity to decrease poverty and meet the basic needs of all the people who participate in our economy by:
 - Enabling business to be profitable and competitive (locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally);
 - Ensuring sufficient employment opportunities and regional prosperity for all segments of the region's workforce;
 - Promoting education and workforce training policies that give residents an opportunity to compete for the full range of jobs available; and
 - Achieving economic development while being consistent with the region's sustainability goals for land use, air quality, and other resource areas.

Outcomes

- Increase the rate of job growth in order to add three million jobs to the regional economy by 2035.
- Eliminate gaps in educational attainment between different racial and ethnic groups by 2035.
- Increase the real per capita income (household and individual buying power) of all income groups over 2005 levels and eliminate the lowest poverty levels in our region.
- Expand green technologies and employment above and beyond existing requirements and projections by 2035.
- Increased the region's economic vitality and attractiveness by focusing housing and job additions in urban centers, employment centers and

transportation corridors, such that there will be a minimum of 35% of household growth and 32% of employment growth in these areas from their levels in 2005 by 2035.

- Increase the affordability of health care by 50% to reduce losses in productivity resulting from inaccessible health care.
- Increase the diversification of the region's economy by promoting sustained economic health, local economic development and global competitiveness.

Action Plan

Constrained Actions

EC-1. Improving the Economic Competitiveness of Key Industry Clusters

- EC-1.1** Form a Prosperity Partnership, a coalition of public and private entities, dedicated to developing and implementing a common economic strategy for the SCAG region.
- EC-1.2** Partner with institutions that will help develop global trade logistics infrastructure needed for local businesses to remain competitive.
- EC-1.3** Partner with economic development organizations to assist the region in attracting and retaining both local and foreign investment.
- EC-1.4** Increase awareness - both private and public sectors - of efforts currently underway supporting industry cluster formation in our region.
- EC-1.5** Encourage regional universities and business schools to explore opportunities to maximize benefits to the region from public dollars.
- EC-1.6** Promote regional policies that:
 - Promote economic development and sustained economic health.
 - Reward local ingenuity, initiative, enterprise and creativity.
 - Give local governments the flexibility to attract needed businesses and jobs into their communities.
 - Promote fiscal reform at the state, county and local level (involving sales, property and income taxes) to meet the regions capital investment needs of the region's economy. Tax systems should be diverse enough to protect against over-reliance upon any small number of income streams.
 - Work with industries to diversify their industrial bases.
 - Help local firms replace jobs that cannot be retained.
 - Expand employment in existing high-wage service-sector firms.

- Foster growth of small and medium-sized, locally-based firms.

EC-2. Promoting Education and Workforce Training

- EC-2.1** Support development of workforce strategies that upgrade skills and open up career opportunities for adult workers who need to adapt to change.
- EC-2.2** Inform stakeholders (workforce boards, community colleges and businesses) about the long-term demographic and workforce trends in the SCAG regional forecast.
- EC-2.3** Support K-12 education programs, particularly for at-risk students that help improve high school graduation rates and increase opportunities for all qualified students to attend and graduate from college.
- EC-2.4** Support programs that develop workforce in the green technology sector.
- EC-2.5** Partner with workforce boards and community colleges in identifying specialized training courses that:
 - Meet current and future job needs.
 - Upgrade technological skills and open up career opportunities of adult and young workers.
 - Assist people adapting to change.
- EC-2.6** Support an increase in ESL funding and other opportunities for immigrants to learn English at convenient times and locations.
- EC-2.7** Support programs that connect school district databases region-wide to track and assess student performance to better ensure a match between education and skill requirements and attainment.

EC-3. Developing a Sustainable Goods Movement Strategy/ Greener Economy:

- EC-3.1** Actively engage environmental stakeholders in furthering energy resource diversification by working with California Center for Sustainable Energy, the state's Environmental Agency (Cal-EPA), the California Transportation Commission, and others.
- EC-3.2** Partner with organizations that promote the creation of new advanced environmental friendly technologies for all sectors in the region's economy.
- EC-3.3** Encourage industries to incorporate more energy efficient resources into their products.
- EC-3.4** Develop a suite of technologies or a renewable portfolio of services that allow the SCAG region to plan for a greener economy.
- EC-3.5** Support efforts to increase employment in green technology and/or related industries.
- EC-3.6** Promote the implementation of the Southern California Regional Strategy for Good Movement Action Plan, which is based on three principles:
 - Environmental and community impact mitigation must be integral to the goods movement program.

- Improvements to the goods movement system should not come at the expense of other transportation investments.
- Investments in the regional goods movement system should be made to realize regional benefits that have statewide implications.

EC-3.7 Support policies such as:

- Emissions trading programs that are market-based and use a cap with progressive reductions of the cap overtime.
- Value Added Tax Programs: Support legislation for CPUC % of rate reductions, which will be given for "green building" in the future. Use of tax policy can both be shifted from one area to another (e.g. from sales to value added) and created for the public good.
- Clean Air Action Plan: aims to reduce port-generated pollution from vessels, trains, trucks and terminal operating equipment by 45% over the next five years.

EC-3.8 Continue efforts to leverage state infrastructure bond financing to our region to implement the enormous challenges goods movements and transit oriented development infrastructure imposes.

EC-4. Improving Quality of Life

EC-4.1 Reform the state-local government fiscal relationship to help achieve sound, sustainable development. If government is going to "incentivize" the behavior of its governmental institutions, the incentive needs to be in line with its overall goals and objectives (e.g. making affordable workforce housing available). Local jurisdictions working through their representative advocacy groups (e.g. the League of National Cities) need to work with the state to balance the "fiscalizations" of the land use impacts, moving towards making cities fiscally ambivalent over using land for retail or housing purposes.

EC-4.2 Explore means of improving housing availability and pricing. Affordable housing shortage is compounding the difficulty for emerging industries to attract and retain demand positions, which are mostly the younger, more recently educated work force. Similarly, it also adds to the difficulties in attracting and retaining employees from other areas.

EC-4.3 Support policies that streamline the permit process and regulatory requirements imposed upon developers so as to eliminate excessive review time, cost and inefficiency.